(a) whether the Government has put off the idea of privatization of Rural Electrification Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the financial assistance provided by REC to State Electricity Boards for development of rural electrification during the last three years; and

(d) the successes achieved in the field of rural electrification by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) : (a) Presently, there is no such move of the Government to privatize Rural Electrification Corporation of India.

(b) In view of above, question does not arise.

(c) The financial assistance provided by Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) to State Electricity Boards/Power Utilities for various rural electrification programmes during the last three years is given as under :—

2000-01 : Rs. 4058.13 Crores

2001-02 : Rs . 4666.13 Crores

2002-03 : Rs. 6471.00 Crores

(d) As a result of REC's financial support for implementation of different RE projects over the last three decades, about 3.05 lakh villages are reported to have been electrified under REC financed projects upto February, 2003. Similarly, out of a total of 134 lakh electric irrigation pumpsets reported to be energized in the country, over 80 lakh pumpsets are under REC financed projects.

Projects out of the purview of Rapid Power Development and Reforms Programme

†4917. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI LAJPAT RAI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of under construction projects are out of purview of Rapid Power Development and Reforms Programme in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the projects;

(c) the total amount spent by December, 2002 on the same;

(d) the amount still required for the completion of construction of the same; and

(e) by when, the each project is targeted to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA) (a) to (e) Government has initiated in February, 2001 the Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) now known as Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP). Under the programme, projects for bringing about a turn around in identified distribution circles by reducing Aggregate Technical and Commercial Losses and improving the quality of power supply are being financed. In addition, actual reduction of the gap between revenue and cost in the State is to be incentivised through grants.

The Ministry has sanctioned APDRP projects costing Rs. 16647.34 crores till date, out of which Rs.2733.64 crore has already been released. Upto March, 2003, Rs. 1591.46 crore had been utilized by the State Electricity Boards/Utilities. These projects are scheduled to be completed within the Tenth Plan.

Power Generation Projects Using Petroleum products as Fuel

†4918. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :
SHRI LAJPAT RAI :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that petroleum products are used as fuel in several power generation projects under the National Thermal Power Corporation;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that generation cost of these projects is higher than that of coal based projects;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) power generation cost of above projects using petroleum as fuel during the year 2001-2002?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.